



# The Compass

## Message from the Site Manager

*"We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends."* Mary McLeod Bethune

It has been an exciting and busy year here at the Memorial. We continue to develop new partnerships while nurturing existing ones, care for both our cultural and natural resources, and look toward the future with a focus on engaging youth through educational programming and internship opportunities.

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, our 2010 Youth Partnership Program, *Career Institute in Preservation, Conservation, and Interpretation*, is also coming to a close. Receiving the largest amount of funding ever dedicated to youth programming at the Memorial allowed park staff to engage new partners, develop innovative public programs, and, most importantly, introduce a group of Providence teens to the National Park system and career opportunities within the Service. The partnership between the NPS, Brown University, and Living History outlined several goals at the start of the project—to create connections for these urban teens to the National Park units right in their own backyard, to expose them to

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Maven Torres, Axel Luquis and Gavyn Torres portraying members of the 14<sup>th</sup> RI Heavy Artillery as part of the Memorial's Youth Partnership Program.

## Memorial Youth Partnership Program Huge Success

This summer, Roger Williams National Memorial launched its first NPS Youth Partnership Program, working with high school students from the Met School in Providence. The NPS Youth Partnership Program **is dedicated to engaging America's** youth in developing a life-long awareness of and commitment to our National Park units through educational, vocational, and volunteer service opportunities.

The Memorial partnered with the 14<sup>th</sup> Rhode Island Re-enactors Program, founded by Living History, Inc. in 2001, to hire 10 Met School students to perform short interpretive programs for park visitors. Programs featured drill

demonstrations, highlighting the technical aspects of being a soldier in the Civil War, as well as brief interpretive skits depicting different aspects of life as an African-American soldier. The theme of freedom resonated through the performances and helped visitors make the connection to Roger Williams and the ideals he put into practice on the site of the Memorial almost 375 years ago.

Following each performance, visitors were given the opportunity to speak with the students during a question and answer session.

*Youth Partnership Program (cont. on page 4)*

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career opportunities within the NPS, and to help them better understand and appreciate the history of their community and its relevancy to the world today. *Explorations in Freedom*, a series of interpretive programs and demonstrations presented by program participants on weekends in July and August, attracted hundreds of visitors, including local day camps and library programs, to the park. Many of the teens who participated in the *Career Institute* have expressed an interest in staying involved with the Memorial throughout the school year and, ultimately, working for the NPS.

Park staff also received assistance from the Northeast Regional Office Division of Interpretation and Education to evaluate the **park's** current curriculum-based education program, *Travels with Roger*, and to work with park education staff to update it to better match framework standards and reflect the most current scholarship. The new program, *Champion of Freedom: Roger Williams and the Settlement of Rhode Island*, developed with local 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, is much more interactive and includes pre-site as well as post-site activities. It will be piloted in classrooms in the fall, evaluated, and offered after the new year. *Champion of Freedom* is the first new curriculum-based program developed by the park in over 20 years.

Over the next year, Memorial staff, volunteers, and partners will be engaged in some very exciting **projects**. The site's Cultural Landscape Report, due to be delivered in the fall, is full of great recommendations and the focus will be on the development of an implementation strategy. Also in 2011, Providence is celebrating the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlement by Roger Williams in 1636.

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## Volunteer Spotlight

**Name:** Molly Brown

**Occupation:** Student

**How long have you been a volunteer?**

I have been a volunteer at the Memorial for about a year now.

**Why did you become a volunteer?**

I have always been interested in history. My sister Caitlin Brown, who is a park ranger at the Memorial, told me about the kinds of things she was doing and I thought that would be a great way to spend my time.

**What do you like about volunteering for the NPS?**

I really love to help out with Junior Ranger days. It's a lot of fun to work with the little kids as they explore the Junior Ranger booklet and try some of the activities.

**What are some interesting things you've done in your life so far?**

My National History Day project this year was on Roger Williams. I interviewed one of the park rangers at the Memorial, John McNiff, as he portrayed Roger Williams in character and costume. I videotaped the interview and then edited it for the project.



## Memorial Receives Much-Needed Assistance from Volunteers

Volunteers serve a vital role at the Memorial. Whether staffing the visitor center, assisting with administrative work, or helping to **care for and maintain the Memorial's** natural and cultural resources, volunteers are a critical component of **the park's daily operations and key to** supporting the mission of the National Park Service.

Rachael Stamp, a Library Science Masters Degree candidate at the University of Rhode Island, is cataloging the Memorial's **growing** library and archives collection; Joyce Rowley, a city planner with over 20 years of experience, is creating walking tour maps of downtown Providence for distribution to park visitors; Erik Christiansen, a professor at three local universities, is working with Park Ranger John McNiff on the development of a new interpretive program; and Justin Tessier, Boston University graduate, assists with a diversity of maintenance projects and staffs the visitor center information desk on a regular basis.

**"With such a small staff and so many** things to get done, we depend on our

volunteers to help us accomplish all **that we do,"** Volunteer Coordinator Sparkle Bryant remarks. **"Many of** these special projects would probably be put on the back burner if these **folks didn't offer their time and** expertise," Bryant continues.

Roger Williams National Memorial is always looking for new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the **Memorial's Volunteer** Coordinator Sparkle Bryant at 401.521.7266 or email at: sparkle\_bryant@nps.gov.



Volunteers assisted Memorial maintenance staff with planting flowers in barrels in front of the Antram-Gray House, the visitor center for the Memorial.

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A group of stakeholders have been meeting since June and are planning a year-long menu of events with a focus on Williams and the ideals of freedom and liberty that he put into practice right where the National Memorial is located today. Finally, over the next fiscal year, park administration will seek funding and identify additional community partners to build on the momentum generated by this year's Youth Partnership Program. The staff at Roger Williams National Memorial is committed to keeping the story of Roger Williams fresh and relevant for our ever-changing constituency. We also understand the importance of developing a diverse work force to tell that story. It is all of our responsibility to identify, nurture, and mentor the young people in our communities so they see themselves as, stewards of our public lands as well as the next class of leaders in the National Park Service.

Jennifer Smith

## Junior Ranger Days Offer Family-centered Programming

The summer 2010 Junior Ranger Day series was great fun! The series kicked off in April with a special "green" concert in celebration of Earth Day. Kids who came to the Memorial that day were treated to an interactive show by environmental singer/songwriter Greg Cooney who performed songs and stories about the importance of being green and taking care of the earth. The fun continued in June with Len Cabral, an internationally-known storyteller, who kept kids and their families spellbound with his original stories and folktales. In July, the

"kidtastic" Toe Jam Puppet Band rolled into town. The audience had a great time singing along to silly songs and cutting a plot of grass to the Toe Jam Puppet Band's environmentally-themed tunes. The 2010 Junior Ranger Day series concluded in August with a production of *Pocahontas*, presented by the very popular Kaleidoscope Children's Theatre. The themes of environmental stewardship and preservation of the earth's resources were woven throughout this very popular children's story.

All of the Junior Ranger Days were held on WaterFire nights. WaterFire Providence, an award-winning sculpture installed on three rivers in downtown Providence, is the city's premiere arts and culture event and draws thousands of visitors to several lightings between May and October. "We are thrilled to, once again, partner with WaterFire Providence this year and offer family-centered programming on the very popular WaterFire nights," Site Manager Jennifer Smith remarks. "There is great benefit to both organizations when we cross-market our events. We are creating a full-day package of experiences which draws new audiences to each of our programs and creates this palpable energy in downtown Providence that goes far beyond what we could each generate on our own," Smith continues.



Park Ranger Caitlin Brown talks to junior rangers at a Junior Ranger Day event this summer.

## Jessa Piaia appears as Sarah Dyer Britton

On a warm Saturday evening in July, historic re-enactor Jessa Piaia presented a one-person interpretive program entitled *Sarah Dyer Britton: On the Death by Hanging of her Sister-in-Law Rebel Quaker Mary Dyer* at the Roger Williams National Memorial.

The performance, set in 1661, covers the execution of Mary Dyer on Boston Common for the crime of being a Quaker in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The portrayal through the eyes of sister-in-law Sarah Dyer Britton helps to bring to life the Dyer family's experience as settlers in New England in the early 1600s and their role in the Hutchinson controversy.

Anne Hutchinson, like Roger Williams before her, was at odds with the authorities in the Massachusetts Bay over religious principles and beliefs. After a short trial, Hutchinson and her supporters were forced to leave the Bay Colony, and with the help of Roger Williams, established the settlement at Portsmouth Rhode Island in 1638. The Dyer family came with them.

Clad in basic 17<sup>th</sup> century attire, Piaia's dramatic presentation engages the audience and challenges them to see this family's struggle in early New England on a personal level. Ms Piaia is acclaimed for "recreating history in the fullest sense," and for using "solid research, compelling writing, and artistry to pull off this one-woman show."

Ms. Piaia studied performance at London's Oval House Theatre and currently works in the Anthropology Department at Harvard University.





Members of the 14<sup>th</sup> RI Heavy Artillery answer questions from the audience.

## Youth Partnership Program

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Through their participation in this program, the students had the opportunity **to make relevant connections to their community's history**, enhance their interpretive and public speaking skills and learn how to navigate a real world work environment. One of the students remarks on the work aspect of the program, **"I have never had a paid job before and this opportunity really gave me the skills and understanding of a work environment. I guess that was also my greatest challenge-to keep professional even when you're with your peers and want to have fun."**

In preparation for the summer interpretive program, students attended workshops at the John Nicholas Brown Center at Brown University introducing them to historical research and the methods of public history. Through this partnership with the Center, a second-year student in the Masters of Public Humanities program was selected to coordinate the **Memorial's** Youth Partnership Program. Kaitlynn Ward, a Rhode Island native, was hired as a park ranger through the Student Temporary Employment Program and the Memorial received funding through the Youth Internship Program to support this position. Kaitlynn worked closely with the students, managing the overall program including daily activities throughout the summer.

For Kaitlynn, working as a park ranger alongside a group of tremendously talented, dynamic youth has helped further define her **career goals**, **"When I accepted the offer to work for the National Park Service, it was with reserved enthusiasm. Having no experience working with students and a limited understanding of the National Park Service, I was treating this more as a temporary summer job that offered great networking opportunities. Now, after nine weeks working alongside the students, I am amazed by how completely, and unexpectedly, I have fallen in love with working for the Service and with young people, in general. I have realized that the National Park Service is an organization that uses history and interpretation to strengthen civic engagement within today's society. I cannot think of a better way to blend my love of history with my desire to promote and strengthen civic engagement and social justice. I am stepping away from this experience with a much richer understanding of my career goals and passions."**

## Park Maintenance Worker Attends Fundamentals II

Paul Coletta, Maintenance Worker at the Memorial for over 20 years, went out to the Grand Canyon in August to attend Fundamentals II.

During this two week training, offered to all NPS employees regardless of years of service, Coletta was immersed in all facets of the National Park Service. The course provides an overview of the history and mission of the NPS and includes topics such as risk management, professional development, business practices, budget, and partnerships. Attendance also provides both new and long-time employees with the opportunity to meet and network with their peers from other parks. For Coletta, who has spent his whole career at a site in his home state, this training offered a fresh, new perspective on the culture and operations of the Service as well as a renewed appreciation for the important work his fellow employees are doing every day.



Coletta reflects **on the experience**, **"I met people from all over the country who are just as passionate as I am for the sites they work at and the public they serve. You can get so caught up in your day to day work, that it's hard, sometimes, to see the bigger picture. This training helped me appreciate that the work I do, even at a small site, does support the mission of the National Park Service."**

For more information about the Fundamentals program, visit <http://www.nps.gov/training/fund/index.htm>

## Memorial Develops Two New Education Programs

After 20 years, *Travels with Roger*, the park's award-winning educational program, is being retired. Last fall, Park Ranger Sparkle Bryant began working with Maryann Zujewski, a park ranger at Lowell NHP and the Tsongas Industrial History Center, a partner of Lowell NHP, under the direction of Elizabeth Hoermann, NER Program Manager for Partnerships and Program Development, to create a new education program about Roger Williams that is rooted in current framework standards and aligned with NPS standards for curriculum-based education programs.

Over the course of a year, Bryant and Zujewski worked together to develop an education program that focused on the story of Roger Williams and the settlement of Rhode Island that fit within the Rhode Island Grade Span Expectations for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Once the program was in its final draft, an advisory group of elementary school teachers was brought together to review the new program and to see if it was something that would work in their classrooms. The teachers, representing two public schools and one charter school in Rhode Island, provided feedback and offered suggestions that helped get the program to the point where it can be piloted in their classrooms this fall. Once the program is piloted and evaluated, it will be offered to all Rhode Island 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms starting January 2011.

Also being rolled out in 2011 is another new education program, *Postcards from Your National Parks*, which introduces 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to over 150 units in the National Park system.

In the Postcards program, developed by now-retired Blackstone River Valley NHC Park Ranger Suzanne Buchanan, students become "history detectives" by using primary resources to learn about the various NPS designations, each park's natural and/or cultural resources, and what each park offers in terms of a visitor experience. Park Ranger Sparkle Bryant piloted this program in spring 2010 and received very positive feedback and program evaluations.

## Memorial hosts *Henry VIII*



Director Bob Colona at the Memorial during an evening performance of *Henry VIII*.

In late December 2009, Ranger John McNiff was sitting at home sorting through his messages on facebook. One of those messages was from someone McNiff knew from his previous life in the theater. Bob Colona, veteran actor and director, was going to revive The Rhode Island Shakespeare Theater. McNiff saw an opportunity and sent Colona a message, "Are you interested in a summer production of Shakespeare at Roger Williams National Memorial?" The reply was an immediate, "Yes!"

The Rhode Island Shakespeare Theater, founded by Colonna in 1971, for years staged site-specific performances at locations reflective of the particular shows. By early spring, plans were well underway for a June production of *Shakespeare's Henry VIII* at the Memorial.



Queen Katherine and her ladies-in-waiting in The Rhode Island Shakespeare Theater's *Henry VIII* at the Memorial in June.

*Shakespeare's Henry VIII* ties in well with the Roger Williams story. Williams grew up in the very same London where William Shakespeare wrote and performed. When Roger was 10 years old, *Henry VIII* was first performed. A cannon fired in the first act, set fire to the thatched roof of the Globe Theater and burned it to the ground. But there is more than just a coincidence of time and space.

This play brings to light the struggles in England between church and state which were part of Roger Williams' youth and helped to inform his ideas about separation of church and state.

Presenting this play at the Memorial was not only an opportunity to entertain the public, but a chance to introduce new audiences to the site as well. Crowds of well over 100 attended each of the six performances. For many, it was their first time at the Memorial, and quite a few said that it would not be their last.



Director Bob Colona gathers the cast of *Henry VIII* before an evening performance at the Memorial



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*The Compass* is the newsletter for the Roger Williams National Memorial. The image above is the compass and sundial of Roger Williams. It is one of the very few tangible artifacts of his that remain.

By its nature a compass tells direction—where you are going and where you have been. It's the perfect name for our newsletter.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Roger Williams National Memorial commemorates the life of the founder of Rhode Island and a champion of the ideals of religious freedom and liberty of conscience. Williams, banished from Massachusetts for his beliefs, founded Providence in 1636. This colony served as a refuge where all could come to worship as their conscience dictated without interference from the state. The Memorial is located on a common lot of the original settlement of Providence and includes 4.5 acres of landscaped park.

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